



Superior Court
Of Snohomish County

ADMINISTRATIVE ORDER 10-15

WEAPONS RESTRICTED AREAS

Adopted: July 14, 2004
Updated: January 14, 2015

The Judges of the Snohomish County Superior Court, acting as the local judicial authority with respect to the Snohomish County Courthouse, the County Mission Building, temporary rented facilities for jury orientation, administrative and detention alternative programs located in the Multi-Service Center, and the Charles R. Denney Juvenile Justice Center, hereby enter the following administrative order:

FINDINGS OF FACT

1. It is the responsibility of the judiciary, and within its inherent power, to take reasonable steps to provide access to justice for all citizens and to ensure that persons who come to the court, including parties, witnesses, jurors and staff, are protected from violence and threats of violence while in court facilities.
2. RCW 9.41.300(1) (b) prohibits weapons from “those areas in any building used in connection with court proceedings, including courtrooms, jury rooms, judge’s chambers, offices and areas used to conduct court business, waiting areas, and corridors adjacent to areas used in connection with court proceedings. The restricted areas do not include common areas of ingress or egress to the building that is used in connection with court proceedings, when it is possible to protect court areas without restricting ingress or egress to the building. The restricted areas shall be the minimum necessary to fulfill the objective of this subsection (1) (b)”;
- RCW 9.41.300(1) (b) requires the judicial authority to designate and clearly mark those areas where weapons are prohibited.

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3. In accordance with RCW 9.41.300(1)(b), weapons are prohibited in the following designated areas (“Restricted Areas”):
 - a. All areas of the basement, first, second, third, fourth and fifth floors of the Snohomish County Courthouse, including the stairways and elevators connecting them, and the tunnel connecting the basement of the Administration Building with the basement of the Courthouse.
 - b. All areas of the basement, first and second floors of the County Mission Building, including the stairways and elevators connecting them.
 - c. All the areas of the Charles R. Denney Juvenile Justice Center.
 - d. The facilities used for administrative and detention alternative programs located in the Multi Service Center.
 - e. The public entrances to the lobby of the Snohomish County Courthouse, which are the only common areas of ingress and egress to the Courthouse and Mission Building.
4. The Restricted Areas are used in connection with court proceedings and are the minimum necessary to protect court areas and fulfill the objectives of RCW 9.41.300(1) (b). The Restricted Areas have been marked as areas where weapons are prohibited, and notices of the prohibition against weapons in the Restricted Areas have been posted at each entrance to each building.
5. The following weapons are prohibited from the Restricted Areas designated in section 3: firearms, explosives as defined in RCW [70.74.010](#), or any weapon of the kind usually known as sling shot, sand club, or metal knuckles, or any knife, dagger, dirk, or any other similar weapon that is capable of causing death or bodily injury and is commonly used with the intent to cause death or bodily injury, including but not limited to: gravity activated knives, spring loaded knives, switch blades, knives over three inches in length, and martial art implements, or anything that may be used as a weapon such as mace pepper spray, or similar item(s), box knives, screw drivers, scissors, letter openers, pocket knives, chains over 20” in length.
6. The following individuals are exempt from the weapons prohibitions set forth above:
 - a. A person engaged in military activities sponsored by the federal or state governments, while engaged in his/her official duties;
 - b. Law enforcement officers, except that this exemption does not apply to a law enforcement officer who is present as a party to an action under chapter 10.14, 10.99, or 26.50 RCW, or an action under Title 26 RCW where any party has alleged the existence of domestic violence as defined in RCW 26.50.010;

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- c. Security personnel, while engaged in official duties;
 - d. Currently employed correctional personnel or community corrections officers, who have completed government-sponsored law enforcement firearms training pursuant to a job requirement. This exemption does not apply to correctional personnel or community corrections officers who are present as a party to an action under chapter 10.14, 10.99, or 26.50 RCW, or an action under Title 26 RCW where any party has alleged the existence of domestic violence as defined in RCW 26.50.010.
 - e. The Prosecuting Attorney or his/her Deputy prosecuting attorney(s) to the extent the weapon is an exhibit in a pending case;
 - f. Construction, repair or maintenance workers and others who are assigned to work in the Restricted Areas may have tools of their trade; ;
 - g. County employees assigned to work in the Restricted Areas may have office equipment, supplies and ordinary kitchen utensils, for their personal use;
7. Lock boxes are available for weapons storage in the lobby areas of the Snohomish County Courthouse and Administration Building and at the Charles R. Denney Juvenile Justice Center.

ORDER

IT IS HEREBY ORDERED that all weapons are prohibited in the Restricted Areas as described in the Findings of Fact listed above.

Dated this ____ day of _____, 2015

Michael T. Downes, Presiding Judge

Supersedes: Updated January 14, 2015; Updated and Reformatted February 20, 2013; Updated December 12, 2006; Adopted July 14, 2004
